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April 14, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 167 – March 2021
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) -
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On March 2, EPA and CPG conducted an MS Teams meeting to discuss conducting potential high flow sampling events in the late winter and early spring

Correspondence

- On March 1, the CPG provided to EPA for its review and approval a draft Field Modification for conducting high flow sampling in late winter/early spring.
- On March 1 and 2, EPA and CPG exchanged emails to schedule a March 2 EPA-CPG meeting to discuss Current Conditions Surface water sampling.
- On March 3, the CPG provided to EPA for its review and approval a draft Field Modification for conducting high flow sampling.
- On March 4, EPA agreed to the CPG's field modification forwarded by CPG and requested a formal document for approval.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 167 – March 2021
April 14, 2021
Page 2 of 4

- On March 11, EPA provided a letter outlining its expectations for Year 2 of Current Conditions - Surface water sampling and approving the High Flow Field Modification.
- On March 15, the CPG delivered the February 2021 LPRSA RI/FS Monthly Progress Report to EPA.
- On March 16, the CPG provided a revised Field Modification for High Flow sampling for EPA approval. CPG provided a preliminary response to EPA's March 11 letter outlining the activities that CPG had implemented in February and March of 2021. CPG reserves its right to provide a more detailed response to EPA's March 11 letter.
- On March 18, CPG informed EPA and USGS of an apparent malfunction of the Dundee Dam stream gauge critical to sv-CWCM sampling. CPG reported to EPA its return to operation by USGS after maintenance.
- On March 19, EPA approved the Field Modification for high flow.
- On March 19 and 22, CPG informed EPA of its intention to potentially conducting two sv-CWCM events during the weeks of March 22 and 29.
- On March 23, EPA agreed with CPG's recommendation to conduct two sv-CWCM events during the weeks of March 22 and 29 and indicated its desire to include PWCM data during the second event.
- On March 23, the CPG provided a field for modification for adding PWCM data collection to the sv-CWCM event planned for the week of March 29.
- On March 25, EPA asked the CPG about the PWCM data collection proposed for week of March event.
- On March 25, CPG responded and outlined the specific PWCM data that its Team would be able to collect during the sv-CWCM planned for the week of March 29.
- March 25 - 29, EPA and CPG exchanged emails regarding a potential exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual and an AECOM Field Team member. The AECOM Field Team was tested and removed from the team. The test results were negative.
- On March 26, EPA provided additional information on its expectations for Year 2 Current Conditions Surface water sampling.
- On March 29-30, CPG informed EPA that the anticipated >3,000 cfs flows predicted for the week were unlikely to be met, but that CPG would proceed with the event since it provided the opportunity to collect additional moderate flow data (1,000 – 3,000 cfs); in response, EPA concurred.

Work

- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG prepared and developed a contingency plan and field modification for high flow sampling (>5,000 cfs) for discussion with Region 2 in the event condition occur in late winter or early spring.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 167 – March 2021
April 14, 2021
Page 3 of 4

- On March 9 and 10, CPG deployed PWCM moorings at RM 8.4, RM 10.2, RM 12, RM 13.5 and RM 15.8 as part of a planned deployment.
- On March 24, CPG applied for a New Jersey Scientific Collection Permit for the planned August 2021 Biota Sampling event
- On March 24 and 25, CPG conducted a sv-CWCM event.
- On March 31 and April 1, CPG conducted a sv-CWCM event.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- Preparations for conducting sv-CWCM events when conditions permit
- Routine maintenance of PWCM moorings during the planned deployment
- Ongoing discussions with EPA on 2021 Current Conditions sampling

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 may impact and/or delay 2021 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-806-7688.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Robert Law, Ph.D.
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
Dawn Lamparello, CPG Coordinating Counsel

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 167 – March 2021
April 14, 2021
Page 4 of 4

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